vi. Incentive **for timely completion of projects** : To incentivize timely completion of projects in the present period of power shortages, an additional return on equity of 0.5% will be available to those projects which are commissioned within the given timelines. This was not available earlier.

vii. To incentivize higher availability of power plants, the incentive available to the generating companies will now be available on the basis of declared availability instead of plant load factor because the generators can only declare better availability and actual schedule is not within their control.

viii. **Depreciation** : While doing away with the advance against depreciation in line with Tariff Policy, depreciation rates have been reworked to take care of repayment of debt obligations of the new projects. However, once the initial period of 12 years is over, remaining depreciation would be spread over the balance useful life to keep the tariff reasonable.

ix. O & M norms for thermal generation and transmission system have been rationalised duly considering escalation and impact of pay revision. The O & M for hydro station continues to be based in actual.

x. Renovation & **Modernization** :

Tariff regulations have given due attention to the need of renovation and modernization. The companies operating thermal power plants will have now two options. The first option is to claim a special allowance on the basis of per MW per year after completion of normative useful life of the project and in such an event the generating company will be obligated to deliver the norms set for availability and operations. Second option is to go for comprehensive R & M which is to be permitted by Commission on the basis of detailed cost benefit analysis including the efficiency gains to the beneficiares.

Killing of Tigers

*52. SHRI P.R. RAJAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the existing number of tigers in the countryus forests, State-wise;

(b) the number of tigers killed by hunters during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether Government is aware of the fact that Wayanand Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala has set an example in protecting tigers; and

(d) if so, whether Government is considering making it a recognized tiger sanctuary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) As per the findings of the recent All India tiger estimation, using the refined methodology in 2008, the total country-level population of tiger is 1411 (mid value); the lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-I (See below).

(b) As reported by States and the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, details of tiger mortality due to poaching during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-II (See below).

(c) and (d) No proposal has been received for developing the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary as a Tiger Reserve. However, findings of the recent all India tiger estimation in 2008 has revealed that Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary of Kerala forms part of the landscape having one of the major populations of tiger.

Statement-I

Forest occupancy and population estimates of tiger as per the refined methodology

State	Tiger	Tiger Numbers		
	km2	No.	Lower limit	Upper limit
Shivalik-Gangetic Plain Landscape Complex				
Uttarakhand	1901	178	161	195
Uttar Pradesh	2766	109	91	127
Bihar	510	10	7	13
Shivalik-Gangetic	5177	297	259	335
Central Indian Landscape Complex and Eastern Ghats Landscape Complex				
Andhra Pradesh	14126	95	84	107
Chhattisgarh	3609	26	23	28
Madhya Pradesh	15614	300	236	364
Mahasrashtra	4273	103	76	131
Orissa	9144	45	37	53
Rajasthan	356	32	30	35
Jharkhand*	1488		Not Assessed	
Central Indian	48610	601	486	718
Western Ghats Landscape Complex				
Karnataka	18715	290	241	339
Kerala	6168	46	39	53
Tamil Nadu	9211	76	56	95
Western Ghats	34094	412	336	487
North East Hills and Brahamaputra Flood Plains				
Assam*	1167	70	60	80
Arunachal Pradesh*	1685	14	12	18
Mizoram*	785	6	4	8
Northern West Bengal*	596	10	8	12
North East Hills, and Brahmaputra	4230	100	84	118
Sunderbans	1586		Not Assessed	
Total Tiger Population		1411	1165	1657

*Population estimates are based on possible density of tiger occupied landscape in the area, not assessed by double sampling.

**Data was not amenable to population estimation to tiger. However, available information about the landscape indicates low densities of tiger in the area ranging from 0.5 to 1.5 per 100 km^2 .

Statement-II

Details of tiger mortality due to poaching (including seizures) during the last three years & current year (State-wise)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2006	2007	2008	2009
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	1		2
2.	Assam		2		1
3.	Kerala		6	1	
4.	Karnataka				1
5.	Madhya Pradesh	1		2	3
6.	Maharashtra	1			2
7.	Orissa				1
8.	Rajasthan			1	
9.	Tamil Nadu				1
10.	Uttarakhand	2		1	1
11.	Uttar Pradesh		1	1	
12.	West Bengal				1
13.	Delhi			1	1
14.	Goa				1
	Total :	5	10	7	15*

*As on 13.11.2009.

Exploration of new coal reserves

†*53.SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI :
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA :
Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has entrusted the responsibility of exploring new coal reserves to any particular institutions;

(b) if so, the names of such institutions and the number of coal reserves explored by them till the end of March, 2009;

(c) the number of coal reserves out of the above, in which commercial production has started; and

(d) the target for production of coal for the current year?

† Orignial notice of the question was received in Hindi.